

United States Department of Agriculture



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Transmitted via Email

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 260-5-53

SUBJECT: INF – MINNESOTA NRCS MARKETING NEWS RELEASE

Purpose. To provide a Marketing Team News Release

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

Attached to this bulletin is a news release entitled ***USDA Selects Watershed for 2006 Conservation Security Program (CSP)***. It was prepared for the NRCS Marketing Team by Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist. The NRCS State Office will be distributing the news release to state wide news outlets.

Please feel free to adapt, as needed, and distribute as soon as possible to your local news outlets.

Questions regarding the MN NRCS Marketing Team efforts should be directed to John Nicholson, Marketing Chair, and public information efforts should be directed to Julie MacSwain.

Questions regarding the Conservation Security Program (CSP) should be directed to Leah Duzy, Agricultural Economist, at 651-602-7867.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Attachment - News Release

DIST: AE

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:
County District Conservationist
Phone (XXX) XXX-XXXX

USDA SELECTS WATERSHEDS FOR 2006 CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM (CSP) *Two Northwest Minnesota Watersheds are Selected for the 2006 CSP*

SAINT PAUL, MN, AUGUST 26, 2005 – Agriculture Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner announced on August 25, 2005 in Palmar, Alaska that 110 watersheds, with at least one in all 50 states, Guam and Puerto Rico, are eligible for the 2006 Conservation Security Program (CSP).

In Minnesota, two CSP watersheds have been selected, the Red Lakes Watershed and the Thief Watershed. Both of these watersheds are located in northwest Minnesota and represent 463,073 acres of cropland and pasture land. There are 1,013 producers who are potentially eligible for the 2006 CSP program in the Red Lakes and Thief Watersheds.

"This voluntary program recognizes farmers and ranchers for their ongoing stewardship activities on working agricultural lands," said William Hunt, State Conservationist, Minnesota NRCS. "Natural resource conservation efforts by America's producers benefit everyone through healthier soil, cleaner air and water and improved fish and wildlife habitat. CSP successfully demonstrates a cooperative public-private conservation partnership," said Hunt. The signup period will take place early in fiscal year 2006. These watersheds represent more than 120,000 of the Nation's potentially eligible farms and ranches, covering more than 46 million acres that are evenly split between cropland and grazing land.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service held the first CSP signup in 2004. This CSP announcement brings the number of watersheds enrolled to 330 across the Nation, covering 250 million acres that have been eligible for the program.

The 2006 CSP will include a renewable energy component. Eligible producers will receive compensation for converting to renewable energy fuels such as bio-diesel and ethanol, for recycling 100 percent of on-farm lubricants, and for implementing energy production, including wind, solar, geothermal and methane production.

CSP will be offered each year on a rotational basis in as many watersheds as funding allows. Additional information on the CSP, including a national map of the fiscal year 2006 watersheds and eligibility requirements, is on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp>.

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